

John Armstrong to Andrew Jackson, May 22, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR (JOHN ARMSTRONG)¹ TO JACKSON.

¹ John Armstrong was Secretary of War from Jan. 13 (Feb. 5), 1813, to Sept. 27, 1814.

Washington, May 22, 1814.

Sir, The vacancy produced by General Hamptons resignation, not having been filled during the late session of the Senate, cannot be supplied, constitutionally, during the recess of that body. All therefore than [that] can be done at present, in reward for your able and gallant conduct during the campaign and in testimony of the public respect these have obtained, is to make you a Brigadier of the line, with the brevet of Major General, and to invest you with the command of the 7th Mil. District.² Commissions of this character will be immediately prepared and forwarded, and I cannot but hope that they will be acceptable and accepted and that it will not be inconvenient for you to assume this new command without loss of time. I avail myself of this occasion to offer to you my great respect and best wishes.

² The 7th Military District included Louisiana, Tennessee, and Mississippi Territory. The return for the month of June of the military force in the district shows a total of 3022 of all ranks, of whom 177 were reported sick and 17 under arrest (Jackson MSS., Milit. Papers, vol. IV., f. 89). In these papers the returns of the troops are frequently confused and are probably only approximately reliable.